

Every once in a while, a person comes along who has the capacity to positively influence people, the community, and life in general. Kirk Peek was just such a man. It saddens me to say that, tragically, he perished in a plane crash on January 17, 2006.

Kirk was born on August 14, 1938 in Unionville, Missouri. Very patriotic and dedicated to our country, he joined the Marines in 1956. He was an avid outdoorsman and after his discharge, Kirk settled in Lone Pine, CA. A 41-year resident, he was the community's beloved barber and his shop was considered the unofficial center of town. People went to Kirk's barbershop for a friendly chat, to find shelter from inclement weather, shoot pool, or to pick up dry cleaning. Kirk was not always there, but the door was never locked. His shop was also a sort of self-help bank as well because frequently the cash register wasn't locked either. As Lone Pine's informal ambassador, Kirk welcomed tourists and his barbershop felt like a second home for many people.

Kirk was involved in several organizations over the years including the Lions Club, Mt. Whitney Golf Club, Little League, the volunteer fire department, Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce, Inyo Associates, and the Lone Pine Booster Club. Appointed to the Inyo County Board of Education in 1998, Kirk felt it was an honor to serve and he continually provided astute insights, wise counsel, and humble leadership.

An accomplished pilot, Kirk flew almost everywhere. He loved to fly and said it gave him a sense of spirituality and a sense of awe. He felt at home in the air and he would always make sure his plane was available for a friend in need.

Although Kirk will be remembered as a gregarious, honest, and caring man who was generous with his time and talents in order to help others, Kirk's lasting legacy rests in his family. He was a dedicated husband to his wife, Judy, and a loving father to daughter, Beth, as well as a devoted grandfather to Sara and Daniel Blodgett. Sadly, Kirk's son, Phillip Shawn Peek, passed away in 1991.

When Oscar Wilde said, "Some people cause happiness wherever they go," he could have been talking about Trueman Kirk Peek. With his contagious sense of fun and enthusiastic love of life, Kirk always brought out the best in people. He had a genuine affection for others and made friends wherever he went. And those friends deeply miss Kirk and mourn his passing.

A TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA DEANS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Patricia Deans, a decorator, designer, economist, coordinator, organizer and entrepreneur. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

Patricia was born in Wilson, NC in 1941 and is the oldest daughter of Samuel and Helen Ruth Reid. Patricia graduated from Charles H. Darden High School and moved to New York in 1959. In September 1963, she graduated from Adelphi Business School and began working in the health care profession where

she remained for 30 years. She is the mother of three children, Sharon, Walter and Sean, and the proud grandmother of nine grandchildren.

As a community advocate, she is involved with the following organizations: National Association for the Study of African-American Life and History; National Juneteenth Observance Foundation, state coordinator; Solid Waste Advisory Board, SWAB, Brooklyn Borough President's appointment May, 1996; Glenmore Plaza Tenant's Association, president; Brownsville Heritage House Inc., first vice president; Faith Hope and Charity Community Services, Inc., secretary; Brooklyn Public Library Friends Group; Stone Avenue and Brownsville Branches; Multi-Cultural Committee for District 23, member; Youthbuild Brownsville, member.

Patricia's art exhibits have touched both children and senior citizens. Mt. Ararat-Presentation Church Community Senior Citizen Center exhibited her art during its Thanksgiving Convocation for resident leaders.

Patricia's work, which has a multi-cultural focus—Kwanzaa, Dr. Martin Luther King's Celebration, Hispanic Heritage and Black History Month to name a few—is also exhibited at the Brownsville Heritage House. Founded by Mother Rosetta Gaston in March 1981 at the age of 96, Brownsville Heritage House was to be a beacon of hope to the Brownsville Community. Patricia's commitment is to safeguard and enhance the work started by Mother Gaston. One of Patricia's greatest objectives is to see Brownsville Heritage House become to Brooklyn what the Schomburg Center is to Harlem. She desires to see children take advantage of the rich heritage contained within its walls. Patricia wants more people to become aware that Brownsville Heritage House, located on the third floor of the Stone Avenue Branch Library, is the first library built for children and therefore should have landmark status.

Patricia's art graced the Fort Greene Senior Citizen Center and other venues around the city as well as a library dedication at PS/IS 332, which was attended by the former first lady of New York City, Mrs. Joyce Dinkins along with other dignitaries.

Patricia's strong belief in improving the quality of life in urban and rural environment led her into becoming an entrepreneur in July 1994. She saw the need for community based partnerships to provide opportunities for the elderly, the children and the homeless. By pooling resources, sharing gifts and talents, the end results will provide multiple opportunities and empowerment for this population.

To further this quest, Patricia conducts workshops, consults on arts, education, restoration and environmental community development through the use of intergenerational instruction.

Mr. Speaker, Patricia Dean's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during rollcall votes 74, 75, and 76, taken last week.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 74, the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4297; "yes" on rollcall 75, final passage of H. Res. 742; and "yes" on rollcall 76, the motion to table H. Res. 746).

A TRIBUTE TO MARIE I. HOLNESS-FLEMMING, LCSW

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marie Isabel Holness-Flemming, Senior Associate Director of Social Work Services at North Brooklyn Health Network. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

Ms. Holness-Flemming is an accomplished professional, dedicated to helping people cope with illness and crisis. As a social work professional for over 20 years she has worked with and developed programs to service a wide variety of populations such as critical ill newborns, the elderly, persons with HIV/AIDS, victims of violence and substance abuse.

Ms. Holness-Flemming was born in Panama City, Republic of Panama to Boswell and Vera Holness. At the age of two, she immigrated with her family to the U.S. where they settled in the Bronx. Education, highly valued in her household, Ms. Holness-Flemming was a New York State Regent Scholarship winner. She went on to attend Union College in Schenectady, New York obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Psychology. After working for several years with preschool children as a day care teacher, she returned to academia and obtained a Master of Social Work degree from Hunter College School of Social Work.

Pursuing her interest in children, she worked for a child-abuse prevention agency focusing on "at risk" families in order to prevent children from entering the foster care system. Understanding that violence in the household was not only directed toward the children, she developed support groups for victims of domestic violence in an effort to empower women to protect themselves as well as their children. In 1987, she then joined the social work staff at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center where she served for 14 years in a variety of positions moving from direct practice to program development and administration. She worked as a Social Work Supervisor, Discharge Planning Coordinator, and Coordinator for HIV AIDS testing counseling programs, Director of Social Work and Associate Director for the Emergency Department. Ms. Holness-Flemming was honored by the Generations+ Health Network as one of its outstanding women in March 2001.

Currently, at the North Brooklyn Health Network, Ms. Holness-Flemming is responsible for